

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

UNCLAS STATE 172894

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION PROJECT

1. PENNSYLVANIA'S AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR KLINE RECENTLY DECIDED TO SPONSOR A CONGRESS OF WORLD UNITY AND BROTHERHOOD TO BE CONVENED IN PHILADELPHIA IN JULY, 1976. INITIAL PLANNING ENVISIONS ATTENDANCE OF APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED DISTINGUISHED PHILOSOPHICAL, SPIRITUAL, LITERARY AND OTHER LEADERS FROM ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD FOR PURPOSE OF (A) FOSTERING WORLD-WIDE RECOGNITION OF UNITY OF MANKIND AND (B) HOPEFULLY ORGANIZING CONGRESS ON PERMANENT BASIS TO MEET PERHAPS EVERY FIVE YEARS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD.

2. DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONGRESS IS UNDER AUSPICES OF A NEW ORGANIZATION ENTITLED WORLD UNITED, INC., LOCATED IN PHILADELPHIA. TWO CATHOLIC PRIESTS, REV. GUY MERVEILLE AND REV. A. WILLIAM SABATINO, ARE THE PRINCIPAL ORGANIZERS. PROJECT HAS ATTRACTED ASSISTANCE OF GAYLORD HARNWELL, PRESIDENT-EMERITUS OF UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA; JOHN BUNTING, PHILADELPHIA BICENTENNIAL CIVIC LEADER AND BANK UNCLASSIFIED

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PRESIDENT, AND NORMAN COUSINS AMONG OTHERS. PROJECT IS

ESSENTIALLY NON-GOVERNMENTAL IN NATURE EVEN THOUGH SPONSORED BY PENNSYLVANIA BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION. PARTIC-

IPANTS WILL ATTEND IN PERSONAL CAPACITY, NOT AS GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES.

3. REVS. MERVEILLE AND SABATINO HAVE IN RECENT WEEKS VISITED VARIOUS NATIONS IN THE NEAR EAST AND EUROPE TO MAKE INITIAL CONTACTS WITH PROSPECTIVE PARTICIPANTS AND DEVELOP INTEREST IN CONGRESS. REV. SABATINO PRESENTLY PARTICIPATING IN PEACE THROUGH LAW CONFERENCE IN ABIDJAN THROUGH AUGUST 31, FOLLOWING WHICH HE PLANS VISIT SENEGAL. HE WILL CALL ON EMBASSY PAO.

4. DEPARTMENT IS SUPPORTIVE OF BICENTENNIAL EFFORTS OF STATE COMMISSIONS PARTICULARLY IN RESPECT TO PROJECTS IN FURTHERANCE OF CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING. WILL THEREFORE APPRECIATE ANY COURTESIES POST MAY APPROPRIATELY EXTEND. WILL ALSO APPRECIATE POST REPORT ANY INFO DERIVED FROM VISIT. ROGERS

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